Journey With AUS: Outbound baggage handling system

Project description

The outbound baggage handling system (BHS) project will improve AUS's outbound luggage process, i.e. the process that moves checked luggage from the check-in counter, through security screening and to the aircraft.

The BHS is an interconnected network of moving parts including conveyer belts and equipment, most of which require upgrades to meet modern, industry standards.

The completion of this project will allow AUS to process/screen more bags and improve the flow of outbound luggage. The improvements to the system are intended to meet the future demand of *30 million annual passengers.*

Timeline

October 2019
Agreement with contractor, Whiting-Turner, secured

February 2020
Conceptual design by Gensler approved

March 2022
Contractor approved to complete full design; tenant relocation complete

December 2021
Tenant relocation and construction starts

Today
Delivery and installation of system begins

September 2022
Design approved by TSA

End of 2024
Anticipated completion

Benefits to passengers

- Increases system reliability.
  - i.e. bags are less likely to miss their flight.
- Decreases potential flight delays from AUS.
- Meets growing outbound passenger demand.

Impacts to passengers and operations

- No visible construction work in the terminal.
- Construction primarily occurs at night and early in the morning when there is less staff and passengers.
- Temporary construction wall and other measures are put in place to ensure we're meeting safety standards throughout the project.

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Cost

The total cost for this project is approximately $176.7 million.

Funding

The funding for this project comes from traditional airport development funding sources such as airport cash reserves, current and future airport revenues, future revenue bond proceeds and Federal Aviation Administration grants.

Project partners

Whiting-Turner
Prime contractor

AECOM
Subject matter expert

Gensler
Architect

Siemens Logistics
Original equipment manufacturer

VTC
Conceptual designer

GRAEF
Structural designer

Moye Consulting
IT, Security

City of Austin
Department of Aviation; Public Works Department; Capital Contracting Office; Development Services Department; Small & Minority Business Resource Office

Fast facts

- Bags will travel on 1.5 miles of conveyer belts with the new system.
- After project completion, the BHS will process 2,400 bags per hour (that's 800 more than the current system).